## Border 2012 Arizona Border Tribes Accomplishments and Issues

Vice-Chairman Ned Norris
Tohono O'odham Nation

#### Arizona Border Tribes



- Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Quechan Indian Tribe
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Tohono O'odham Nation

Tohono O'odham Nation shares 75 miles the reservation border with Mexico.

# Accomplishments

#### Quitovac O'odham Community Sonora, Mexico

- The Community consists of 18 homes and a small boarding school for approximately 100 indigenous children
- The Tohono O'odham Nation Utility Authority received Border 2012 funding to improve this water system by replacing contaminated, shallow hand dug wells, improving the school well, upgrading the water storage system, and installing a distribution system to the homes.
- Mexico has agreed to provide a health clinic and install electricity



As of January 2006, the Quitovac community now has a properly sealed well, a new pump with increased capacity, a new improved solar power system for the pump, increased water storage capacity of 3 days instead of 1 day, and a distribution system with a faucet provided to the yard of every home.





### The Cocopah Tribe's Lower Colorado River Restoration Project

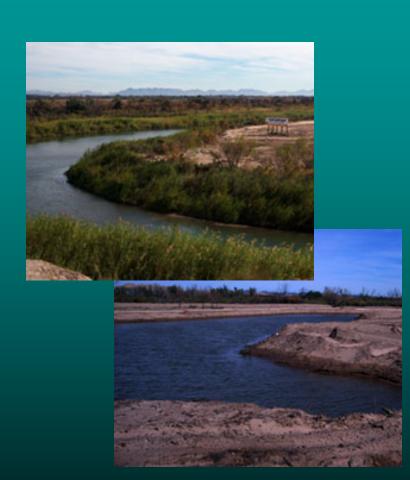
- Received \$250,000 in funding from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Land Management to restore the river.
- The Department of Homeland Security has pledged \$50,000 to restore and remove salt cedars from an additional 100 acres close to the Mexican border, an action that also increases security in the area.





The Cocopah Tribe's Lower Colorado River Restoration Project Continued...

- In 2005, the tribe removed invasive salt cedars from 25 acres bordering the river.
- Restored about 200 acres along the Colorado river so far, with a fourth project of about 50 acres to start soon.



Tohono O'odham Nation Undocumented Migrant (UDM) Waste Project

- Funding-\$50,000 by EPA, \$50,000 by Bureau of Land Management
- October 2004 March 2006
- Identified 84 Migrant Waste Sites for Project
- Over 62 tons of waste removed
- Approximately 1260 bicycles removed
- Two Waste Characteristics Analysis were conducted
  - Backpacks, clothes, shoes, food & medicines, plastic water bottles, plastic bags & tarps and personal documents

- First Analysis December 7, 2004
  - 515 bags sorted from 14 sites
  - Vast majority of materials unusable and un-recyclable
- Second Analysis March 16, 2005
  - 115 bags from 8 sites (used initial collection sites)
  - Majority of materials had potential to be sold and reused



### Goal 5 – Exposure to Chemicals, Releases & Acts of Terrorism

- Two Legislative Council members from the Tohono O'odham Nation attended the Joint Inland Response Team in San Diego, California
  - Tribes had a place at the table
  - Group agreed to look at doing a separate response plan for the Nation
  - Nation's comments on the Draft Contingency Plan were sent to EPA Washington HQ.
  - The Cocopah Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation both have fire departments and expressed the need to be included in border contingency planning efforts.

# Issues

#### Infrastructure

Break-ins and vandalism of the border tribes' water systems.

Significant operation and maintenance needs for water and wastewater

It is estimated that about \$40K in damage done each year to the Tohono O'odham Nation's public water systems alone.



#### Trans-boundary aquifers

 Assured water supplies & protection of shared aquifers and rivers is a major concern for all tribes.



Irrigation Canal Cocopah Indian Tribe

#### Goal 2 – Air

- The Border Liaison Mechanism
   Subgroup/Ambos Nogales Air Quality only covers the urban Nogales area
- Little interest given to the rural areas
- No monitoring for air toxics in the area
- Tribes would like to see the this group expand outside of Nogales

#### Goal 2 - Air

- Current tilling practices
- Pesticide use
  - United States
  - Mexico
- PM rule change
  - Could remove PM-10 monitoring, which most tribes monitor for
  - PM-2.5 monitoring only in areas with population of 100,000 or more
  - Exempts mining, agriculture and construction

Yuma Area Looking East at Sunset

One undocumented individual discards a daily average of 8 pounds of waste

- Backpacks
- Clothing
- Blankets
- Water bottles
- Plastic sheeting
- Food

On the Tohono
O'odham Nation,
this calculates into
over 6 tons per day
of solid waste
being deposited.
This has become a
crisis situation.



- Border Patrol assistance needed to reduce UDM waste
- State/county assistance needed to combat the continual UDM dumping
- Forensic training
- Mesquite Gold Mine open pit proposed as a solid waste landfill facility near Quechan Reservation

#### Goal 4 – Environmental Health

Concern Exists About Potential Environmental Effects in Two Communities in the Tohono O'odham Nation

- The community near the Tohono O'odham-Cyprus copper mine is concerned about contaminants affecting the local air and water quality.
- The community of Menagers Dam, just north of the Mexico international boundary is concerned about high cancer cases in the community and the potential effects from pesticide use in agricultural operations in adjacent Mexico.



#### Goal 4 – Environmental Health

• Unknown pesticide use in Mexico that affects tribes in the United States

#### Goal 5 – Chemical Exposure, Releases & Acts of Terrorism

- Non-existent funding for Homeland Security preparedness
- Increased drug smuggling and labs
- UDMs and drug smugglers frequently cut the international fence and other fences in the Tohono O'odham Nation border region, to facilitate the crossing of vehicles.



This costs time and money to the ranchers and Tohono O'odham Nation to repair and maintain the needed fences.

#### Goal 5 – Chemical Exposure, Releases & Acts of Terrorism

- Proposed La Choya (now CEGIR) hazardous waste landfill near Quitovac, Sonora, Mexico
- Old gold mines near Tohono O'odham Community of Quitovac
  - Concern about windblown contaminants from uncovered tailings
  - Concern about potential effects on the local area aquifer
- Proposed Mesquite Gold Mine Landfill on Quechan Tribe
  - Los Angeles County purchased part of this mine to use as a waste landfill
  - The Quechan Tribe has been told that the tailings will be used to cap the solid waste

### Goal 6 – Environmental Performance, Pollution Prevention & Environmental Stewardship

- Erosion and vegetation damage caused by UDMs, and Border Patrol activities
- Tire dragging is often used to facilitate tracking of individuals & vehicles.



## Border 2012 Texas Border Tribes Accomplishments and Issues

Given by:

Vice-Chairman Ned Norris
Tohono O'odham Nation

#### Texas Border Tribes



- Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of Texas

# Accomplishments

#### Goal 2 - Air

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Air Program





Air Toxics Monitoring project with U.S. EPA and University of Texas School of Public Health to collect ambient air toxics data to establish baseline data and identify potential community health risks associated with air toxics

#### Goal 2 - Air

#### Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Bio-diesel Demonstration Project

- Develop and implement a strategy for a costeffective program to gather and treat sufficient quantities of waste vegetable oil (WVO) generated by restaurants, etc.
- Establish a site to blend, store, and dispense the bio-diesel to vehicles

### Goal 2 - Air Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Bio-diesel Demonstration Project Con't

- Characterize the performance of the test vehicles with respect to engine performance, maintenance requirements, and emission characterization
- Operate a test vehicle under normal conditions for the term of the project
- Provide community outreach and demonstration on the use of WVO as a viable alternate fuel

 Ysleta del Sur Pueblo anticipates implementing a Tribal Recycling Program in FY 2007

#### Goal 4 – Environmental Health

#### Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Produced a bi-lingual video to generate awareness among Border communities and tribal nations from a tribal perspective on improper use and disposal of household hazardous waste and automotive chemicals.



#### Goal 4 – Environmental Health

Conducted pesticide sampling to determine if risks could exist from potential pesticide exposure pathways

YDSP Tribal Pesticide Program



• Tested traditional plants and soil for pesticide residues

## Border 2012 California Border Tribes Accomplishments and Issues

Chairman Chris Devers
Pauma-Yuima Band
of Mission Indians

#### California Border Tribes



#### California Border Tribes

Barona Band of Mission Indians Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians Capitan Grande Reservation Ewiaapaayp Band of Mission Indians Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians Jamul Indian Village La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians La Posta Band of Mission Indians Los Coyotes Indian Reservation Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians Mesa Grande Band of Indians Pala Band of Mission Indians Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians Rincon Luiseno Band of Mission Indians San Pasqual Band of Indians Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation

Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation
Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Torres Martinez, Desert Cahuilla
Indians

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

# Accomplishments

### Water Infrastructure Projects



Completion of drinking water line at Rincon Luiseño Band of Indians.

This project was funded with 2004 Border 2012 funds and will be completed this year.



Replacing 1,000 feet of water line at Los Coyotes Band of Indians. This project was funded with Clean Water Act 319 funds.

- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians constructed a water treatment system to remove secondary contaminates from their drinking water.
- The sewage treatment facility will receive septic waste from residents on the Reservation as well as from the La Jolla Campground. It will help to prevent septic waste from contaminating the San Luis Rey River but will not treat the river water directly.



The Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians put in a sewer line with a meter to measure sewage output. The line ends at the local municipal waste agency.

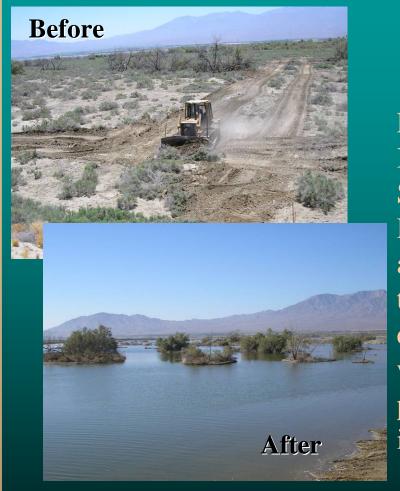




The Pala Band of Mission
Indians and the Campo Band of
the Kumeyaay Nation assistance
with water assessments of
Indigenous communities in
Mexico have aided in increased
funding for water projects



Water quality and testing at San Antonio Necua



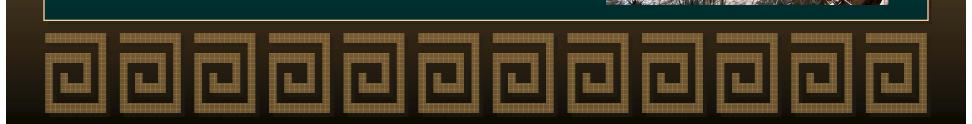
### Torres Martinez Wetlands Project

EPA, the State of California, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Salton Sea jointly funded the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe for an 85-acre, \$1.5 million pilot wetland treatment project that will improve water quality and enhance local wildlife. The wetlands project is designed to remove pollutants from NPS runoff that flows into the Salton Sea.

- Tamarisk Removal Projects
- Wetland Restoration

La Jolla Tamarisk Removal

La Jolla Wetland
<a href="Restoration">Restoration</a>



### Goal 2 - Air

- 6 Tribes in California with Air Programs
  - Pala Band of Mission Indians
  - Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
  - La Posta Band of Mission Indians
  - Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians
  - Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians
  - Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians

#### Pala Band of Mission Indians PM-2.5 Monitor



The Pala Band of Mission Indians monitors PM-2.5, PM-10 and Ozone

### Goal 2 - Air

- There are several tribes that do not receive air funding but conduct air related studies and activities on air quality issues.
- Tribal Collaboration
  - The La Jolla and Pala Reservations are collaborating on a project to perform an air quality baseline study.
  - The Pala Band of Luiseno Indians will be loaning their portable PM2.5 monitoring equipment for 6-12 months and will provide training in it's proper use and how to record and analyze the data.
  - This will make for an efficient use of limited EPA air funds.

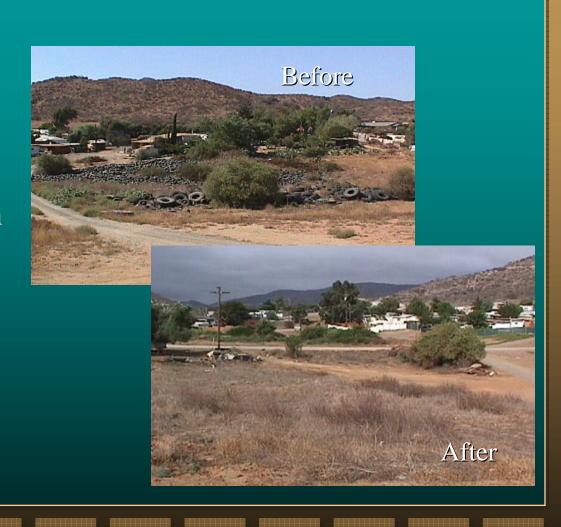
- Increase in recycling of materials
- La Jolla Band of
   Luiseno Indians
   received funding to
   build a Solid Waste
   Transfer Station



La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Transfer Station

- Gregory Canyon Landfill
  - Is being proposed to be placed in the San Luis Rey Watershed drinking water source for several tribes and communities in the watershed.
  - Tribal involvement in this project has influenced the citing and court decisions in the approval of this landfill in favor of the tribes and communities.
  - This is an example of how tribes need to have a voice in the building of landfills and solid waste disposal projects.

- Pala Band of
   Mission Indians
   completed removal
   of ~34,000 tires
   from legacy piles on
   the Reservation
- Sites are still monitored and a maintenance program is in place



# Goal 4 – Environmental Health

- Several tribes have received funding to improve their drinking water and wastewater systems
- 6 tribes are monitoring their air quality
- There is inter-tribal cooperation to collaborate on projects, i.e. sharing of air monitors between La Jolla and Pala.
- Tribes are implementing integrated pest management practices on their tribal lands

# Goal 5 – Chemical Exposure, Releases & Acts of Terrorism

- Several tribes in
   California have own
   Tribal Emergency
   Response Teams or are apart of Community
   Emergency Response
   Teams
- Several tribes have Predisaster Mitigation Plans
- At least 9 tribes have permanent or volunteer fire stations



La Jolla Volunteer Fire Department



**Campo Fire Department** 

# Goal 6 – Environmental Performance, Pollution Prevention & Environmental Stewardship



Wind turbines at the Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians

# Goal 6 – Environmental Performance, Pollution Prevention & Environmental Stewardship

- The 25 turbines went on-line generating electricity in December 2005.
- The turbines generate 2 megawatts each for a total of 50 megawatts.
- Provides electricity for 30,000 homes each year.
- Second-largest turbines in the world, standing 220 feet tall, each blade is 160 feet long.
- The turbines are leased to a Spanish company, EnXco, which provides maintenance and operations.



- \$60 million is needed to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation for U.S. border tribes
- Approximately 20% of tribal water systems will exceed the new arsenic standard
- Tribes have significant and increasing operation & maintenance needs due to the economics of complying with regulatory requirements. Tribes seek regulatory flexibilities and other opportunities for operation & maintenance improvements

- Los Coyotes Band of Indians fighting the placement of 28 private wells along their reservation boundary that will not be regulated.
- Protection and replacement needed for spring boxes and stone water tank used for drinking water
- Los Coyotes' water system is not eligible for public water system funds because too few connections, therefore this does not enable the tribe to expand the drinking water system to new homes.



### Goal 2 - Air

- PM Rule Change if passes, this will revoke PM-10 monitoring from most areas
  - Monitoring will not be done in rural areas and agriculture/mining will be exempt from regulation
  - Most tribal programs monitor for PM-10, only a few for PM-2.5
  - Not based on scientific/health data
- Air impacts from border activities
- Meeting logistics for the San Diego/Tijuana Air Task force – only in Mexico, none in California
- Lack of indoor air monitoring

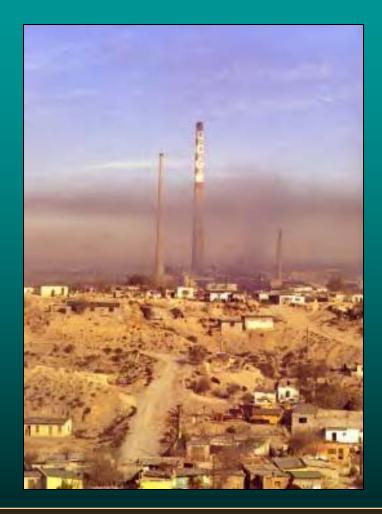




# Goal 2 - Air

#### Off-reservation air sources:

 These maquiladoras in Tecate, are only 26 miles away from the Campo Band of Kumeyaay



- Forensic training for documenting illegal dumps
- Sanitation concerns for indiscriminate toilet areas
- In-discriminate solid waste burning
- Open dumps create public health risks from vectors and other diseases



Tires burning on the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Reservation

### Goal 4 - Environmental Health

#### Pesticides

- Training for physicians and clinics to recognize exposure to pesticides and other chemicals poisonings
- Drinking Water/Wastewater
  - Source water protection for all drinking water sources
  - Improved treatment/septic systems to prevent possible drinking water/groundwater contamination
- Air
  - Studies of asthma triggers on tribal lands
  - Conduct indoor and outdoor air monitoring
  - Burning of trash

# Goal 4 - Environmental Health

- Lead
  - Testing of blood levels in children
  - Inspections of tribal homes for lead contamination
- Solid Waste
  - Reduction of illegal dumps
  - Improved solid waste management plans
- Capacity building and assessments for ALL environmental health issues!

# Goal 5 – Chemical Exposure, Releases & Acts of Terrorism

- No federal funding directly to tribes for Homeland Security
- No notification to tribes when hazardous waste materials are transported through reservations
- Increase in drug labs and smuggling
- Avian Influenza
  - Tribes have not been included in the planning
  - Urban areas have contingency plans, but the more susceptible rural areas do not

# Goal 6 – Environmental Performance, Pollution Prevention & Environmental Stewardship

- Tri-national collaboration on environmental planning and consultation is needed on industrial projects
- Additional communication needs to happen with Tribes regarding Title V permitted facilities that may be out of compliance and are in a 50 mile radius of the tribal lands

### Conclusion

- Tribal participation in the Border 2012 Program has increased and tribes are beginning to benefit from the networking and funding opportunities of the Program
- The hope is that Border 2012 continues and receives adequate funding to address the environmental issues of the border region and improve the quality of life for all its residents